

FARM LABOR NEWS

Vol. 3, No. 1

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Memphis, Tenn.

January, 1949

36¢ Per Year

Calif. Strike In 4th Month

The 1,100 members of the National Farm Labor Union on strike in Kern County, California, against the Di Giorgio Farms Corporation is now in its fourth month. The soulless corporation has refused all offers of a settlement. The men and women are keeping up their 19½ mile picket line going around the 22,000 acre, fifteen million dollar ranch.

Scabs Brought In At Night

As growing demands for labor arose to prune 17,000 acres in grape vines and plum orchards, the company succeeded in recruiting 100 Mexican-American workers from far away El Paso, Texas. These men were smuggled in through the picket lines at night. They had no knowledge of a strike until they woke up the next morning. Louis Deana, Spanish speaking organizer for the Farm Labor Union, was on the job. Over half of the strike breakers were persuaded to leave the strike bound farm.

Warrants Out For Strike Breakers

Meanwhile, George F. Webber, NFLU Board member at El Paso, signed warrants for the arrest of John Reed and Joe Silva, labor agents who recruited the strike breakers. Reed, a former Labor Commissioner for the state of Texas, departed for parts unknown. Silva, his agent, left for Mexico. In the meantime, Hank Hasiwar, NFLU representative on the West Coast in charge of the Di Giorgio strike, filed affidavits with the FBI connecting Walter Paladino, Di Giorgio Corporation official with Reed and Silva. Paladino faces arrest on charges of violating the Byrnes Act in transporting strike breakers across state lines and for violating the California Labor Code, which also prohibits the employment of strike breakers.

Strikers Children Have Merry Xmas

Over two thousand children whose fathers and mothers are on strike, attended a big Christmas party given by the Central Labor Union of Los Angeles. A huge tree was loaded with Christmas stockings and toys for all. The Los Angeles local unions sent truck loads of Christmas presents. Santa Claus stopped off at the Arvin community house to distribute the gifts.

14th Convention Calls For Aid

A resolution proposed by a delegate from Arkansas was unanimously adopted by the 14th annual convention. This called upon every member of the National Farm Labor Union to contribute not less than \$1 each to help the California members win their strike.

A. F. L. Officers Send Out Call For Strike Relief

In the meantime, President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany issued an appeal for financial aid for the Di Giorgio strikers. The A. F. of L. officials wrote officers of all unions: "Please make a generous contribution to these gallant strikers and help them to the extent of your financial ability." So far, funds totaling over \$25,000 have been raised and sent for food, rent and other expenses in-

14th Convention Opens



President Joseph F. Landis, President, American Federation of Teachers; President H. L. Mitchell, National Farm Labor Union; and President C. W. Mowery of the Arkansas Federation of Labor. Secretary-Treasurer, Dorothy Dove is seated at the desk.

In a stirring address on the opening day, President Landis, the main speaker, charged that "America is plowing under its finest crop—the children."

President Mowery welcomed the delegates to Little Rock and urged that they join all other labor organizations in bringing about the defeat of labor's enemies in the 1948 elections.

Farm Labor Voters League Set Up

A Farm Labor Voters League was set up in Little Rock on December 13th. The purpose of the League is to see that all rural people qualify and get ready to cast their votes against the enemies of the working people in the 1948 elections.

The farm labor political action group was formed following reports of delegates as to numbers of members registering, paying poll taxes and otherwise qualifying to cast their ballots next year. Delegates from an Arkansas county reported 5,000 members were qualified voters in a total registration in the county of less than 20,000. Delegates from Florida reported the defeat of a group of anti-union politicians in a recent city election, when members of the Union, white and Negro, qualified and cast their ballots. California delegates reported that every member of the Union who walks the picket line on the Di Giorgio Corporation Farms has his registration card in his pocket, and over 1,000 votes will be cast in the California elections this year.

The Farm Labor Voters League will operate in all local, county, state and national elections in cooperation with Labors Educational and Political League set up by the A. F. of L. union presidents in Washington on December 6th. The Farm Labor Voters League will be maintained by voluntary contributions of \$2.00 per year from members. A national committee composed of farm labor leaders in each state was set up. H. L. Mitchell was named chairman; F. R. Betton, vice chairman; and Dorothy Dove, secretary-treasurer.

curred by the strikers. However, if the workers are to hold out, thousands of dollars more must be raised. The men and women on the picket line say they will hold until next summer if they can just keep their families alive.

Fruit Pickers Stop Wage Cuts In Fla.

Members of the Citrus Workers Local 201 in the Florida citrus belt are winning their fight against wage cuts by the packing houses. This was shown when fruit pickers employed by the Florida Gold Company at Lake Alfred quit work when wage rates were cut. A committee composed of E. N. Hammond, R. F. Fox, Leonard Tyndal, Ed Mitchell and L. S. Warnock called on the management and an agreement was worked out whereby union wage rates were paid and all men went back to work. A contract with the Florida Gold Co., is being negotiated.

Local Union Moves Office

Citrus Workers Local 201 has moved its headquarters from the Peoples Bank Building and its office and meeting hall are now located upstairs at 202 Magnolia St., U. S. Highway 92 in Auburndale, Fla. The telephone number is 88-832. The move was made as a result of the growth of the Local Union which now has Chapters in each of the following towns: Davenport, Florence Villa, Plant City, Mullinsville, Eagle Lake, Bartow, Haines City, Auburndale, Lake Wales, Frost Proof, Lakeland.

Di Giorgio Also In Florida

The Di Giorgio Corporation, against whom 1,100 members of the National Farm Labor Union in Kern County, California are on strike, owns a large citrus fruit grove and packing house near Winter Haven, Fla. In cooperation with the A. F. of L. southern office, the National Farm Labor Union is organizing the workers employed by the Di Giorgio Corporation in Florida. The A. F. of L. Federal Labor Union has filed an application with the Labor Relations Board for an election in the packing plant. The Di Giorgio Corporation has replied that the NLRB does not have jurisdiction since they are en-

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Nat. Convention Maps '48 Program

The 14th convention of the National Farm Labor Union was held in Little Rock, December 12, 13, 14th. A fine program was worked out for the new year by the 125 delegates attending this annual meeting. The delegates also voted to instruct the newly elected officers to arrange for the next annual convention to be held in California.

Death Benefit Fund Set Up

To build the Union stronger and to help its members in time of need, the constitution of the National Union was changed. A death benefit fund was set up, to be paid to the families of members who pass away. Beginning January 1, 1949, the family of any member who has paid membership dues regularly for one year or more will be paid a benefit of \$50 upon the member's death. After 5 years of membership in the Union, a benefit of \$100 will be paid. After 10 years membership in the Union a \$250 benefit will be paid. The fund is being started this year and membership will count only from 1948 on up to the date of death. No member who is past 60 years of age at the time he joins will share in this fund as it is now set up. However, members of the Union past 60 years of age who were in good standing for the full year 1947 will be covered by a special fund to be set up by their local unions.

The Death Benefit Fund will be administered by the National Union and one-half of each initiation fee paid and a portion of each member's dues will be set aside to pay the death benefit to those members whose death occurs while they are in good standing in the Union.

Protecting The Rights Of Members

A plan was also adopted by the convention whereby the legal rights of Union members are to be protected. Local unions may set up a special fund for legal aid and strike relief for their members. Twenty five cents of each dollar of the local union's share of membership dues may be set aside for this purpose. A portion of the dues going to the National Union will also be set aside to help in defending the legal rights of Union members.

Resolutions Adopted

By Convention

The convention adopted resolutions calling for social security for farm laborers, and for government regulation of wages and hours of workers engaged in agriculture. The convention condemned the action of Congress in turning over government farm labor housing to private associations of farmers and for adopting the Taft-Hartley Act. The delegates endorsed the Marshall Plan to aid European countries and to stop Soviet Russia from enslaving free labor throughout the world. Another resolution called upon the Bureau of Internal Revenue to enforce the income tax laws and to collect taxes due the government by foreign nationals who have been employed on farms in the United States since 1943; and to force employers of aliens hereafter to collect the 30% income tax on earnings in agriculture which they are re-

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Convention Resolutions

Resolution No. 1

Asking Equal Rights With Foreign Nationals In Agriculture

Calling on the Congress of the United States to enact legislation giving to citizens of the United States of America who are employed in agriculture the same benefits now guaranteed to non-resident aliens being imported for employment on farms by permission of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization.

Resolution No. 2

Concerning Tax Evasion By Foreign Nationals In Agriculture

Calling for an investigation of income tax evasion by foreign nationals employed on farms since 1943. Also demanding enforcement of Section 143 B of the Internal Revenue Code which states that employers of alien non-residents shall deduct 30 per cent of earnings in excess of \$1.40 per day as income taxes.

Resolution No. 3

Federal Aid To Education

Calling for the enactment of legislation providing for federal aid for education to provide better schooling for rural children.

Resolution No. 4

Endorsing Marshall Plan

Endorsing the Marshall Plan to provide financial and material aid to countries devastated by war so that they may resist the spread of Russian imperialism.

Resolution No. 5

Social Security For Farm Workers

Calling for the extension of social security benefits to farm workers and the enactment of legislation to provide for compensation for workers and the enactment of legislation to provide for compensation for workers injured or killed while employed on farms.

Resolution No. 6

Urging Members To Vote

Calling on members of the National Farm Labor Union to qualify to vote in all elections and for the defeat of legislators, congressmen and senators from agricultural areas who have supported anti-labor laws.

Resolution No. 7

Farm Labor Housing

Condemning the action of Congress in adopting legislation permitting farm operators to secure control of farm labor housing units throughout the United States. Demanding enactment of legislation to provide farm labor housing in the United States.

Resolution No. 8

Wage And Hour Law In Agriculture

Demanding the extension of Wage and Hour legislation to workers employed in industrialized agriculture. Also, demanding that minimum wages be increased to not less than 75¢ an hour, applicable to both industrial and farm workers.

Resolution No. 9

Taft-Hartley Law

Condemning the Taft-Hartley Act as vicious and discriminatory legislation against working people, urging its repeal by Congress. Instructed incoming officers to qualify under the provisions of the act for service by the National Labor Relations Board for those members who are employed in processing food and other products.

Resolution No. 10

Poll Tax, FEPC, President's Report

Re-stated position of the Union on repeal of poll taxes, and the enactment of a fair employment practices law, anti-lynching legislation, and praised the report of President Truman's Committee on Civil Rights as the most important document since the Emancipation Proclamation.

Resolution No. 11

Seasonal Workers

Instructed union officers to work out plans whereby workers advanced transportation to seasonal jobs under the union program and who then transfer without approval to other employment, may be required to pay their own fares.

Resolution No. 12

Publication Of Reports

Instructed newly elected officers to print in the columns of the Farm Labor News, lists of convention speakers, guests, and telegrams received by the convention and read to the delegates. It was further ordered that resolutions and the annual financial statement be printed in the January issue of the Farm Labor News.

Resolution No. 13

Death Benefits For Members Past 60

Ordered Local Unions to set up a death benefit fund similar to that of the National Union to pay benefits to families of Union members past 60 years of age who were in good standing during the year 1947.

Resolution No. 14

Next Convention To California

Instructed officers of the Union to arrange for holding the 15th annual

Telegrams Received At Convention

Mr. William Green, President, American Federation of Labor.
Mr. George Meany, Secretary-Treasurer, American Federation of Labor.
Mr. Daniel J. Tobin, President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen & Helpers of America.
Mr. Charles J. MacGowan, President, Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders & Helpers.
Mr. William L. Hutcherson, President, United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners.
Mr. George M. Harrison, President, Brotherhood of Railway & Steamship Clerks.
Mr. W. C. Birthright, President, Journeymen Barbers, Hairdressers & Cosmetologists International Union.
Mr. George L. Berry, President, International Printing Pressmen & Assistants Union.
Mr. Harry C. Bates, President, Bricklayers, Masons & Plasterers International Union.
Mr. D. W. Tracy, President, International Brotherhood Electrical Workers.
Mr. Herman Winter, President, Bakery & Confectionery Workers International Union.
Mr. William Langer, U. S. Senator.
Mr. Earl W. Jimerson, President, Amalgamated Meat Cutters & Butcher Workmen of N. A.
Mr. W. S. Gross, President, International Assn. of Cleaning & Dye House Workers.
Mr. H. A. Bradley, President, International Chemical Workers Union.
Mr. Arnold S. Zander, President, State County and Municipal Employees.
Mr. P. J. Morrin, President, International Assn. of Bridge, Structural & Ornamental Iron Workers.
Mr. John Polkofer, President, International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers & Helpers.
Mr. Charles D. Aquadro, President, United Slate, Tile & Composition Roofers, Damp & Waterproof Workers Assn.
Mr. John P. Redmond, President, International Association of Fire Fighters.
Mr. Max Zaritsky, President, United Hatters, Cap & Millinery Workers International Union.
Mr. E. W. Higginbotham, President, National Organization Masters, Mates & Pilots.
Mr. Lee W. Minton, President, Glass Bottle Blowers Association.
Mr. G. E. Leighty, President, Order of Railroad Telegraphers.
Mr. Paul R. Hutchings, President, Office Em-

ployes International Union.
Mr. T. C. Carroll, President, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees.
Mr. Ray Kelsay, President, Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers & Helpers Union.
Mr. Irvin Barney, President, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen.
Mr. William E. Maloney, President, International Union of Operating Engineers.
Mr. Jesse Clark, President, Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen of America.
Mr. William J. McSorley, President, Wood, Wire & Metal Lathers International Union.
Mr. John O'Hare, President, Tobacco Workers International Union.
Mr. W. L. Allen, President, Commercial Telegraphers Union.
Mr. Richard F. Walsh, President, International Alliance of Stage Employees & Moving Picture Machine Operators.
Mr. Anthony Valente, President, United Textile Workers of America.
Mr. James A. Suffridge, Secretary-Treasurer, Retail Clerks International Assn.
Mr. Dean Baugh, Executive Secretary, Oklahoma State Federation of Labor.
Mr. Earl J. McDonald, Secretary, New Mexico State Federation of Labor.
Mr. Edward H. Weyler, Secretary-Treasurer, Kentucky State Federation of Labor.
Mr. E. H. Williams, President, Louisiana State Federation of Labor.
Mr. Fred West, President, Kern County Central Labor Council, Bakersfield, Calif.
Mr. Leon B. Schachter, President, Meat & Canery Workers Union Local 56.
Mr. Daniel V. Flanagan, Western Director, American Federation of Labor.
Mr. Hank Hasiwar, Western Representative, National Farm Labor Union.
The Di Giorgio Strikers.
Mr. E. M. Weston, President, Washington State Federation of Labor.
Mr. C. J. Haggerty, Secretary, California State Federation of Labor.
Mr. J. T. Marr, Executive Secretary, Oregon State Federation of Labor.
Mr. H. W. Brown, President, International Association of Machinists.
Mr. Clarence Mitchell, Labor Secretary, National Association for Advancement of Colored People.
Mr. Eduard C. Lindeman, President, National Sharecroppers Fund.
Mr. Norman Thomas.
Mr. John D. Connors, Director, Workers Education Bureau of America.
Mr. David S. Burgess, International Representative, T. W. U. of A.
Mrs. Harriet Guthrie Lewis.
Mr. J. F. Hynds.

National Farm Labor Union Financial Statement

For Eleven Months Period Ended November 30, 1947

Income

Membership Dues	\$20,379.62
Contributions:	
By AFL Unions for Organization	6,315.07
By AFL Unions for Labor Strike Fund	1,453.47
For Convention Expense	300.00
Other Contributions	254.34
National Sharecroppers Fund	13,700.00
Subscriptions to Farm Labor News	\$ 61.21
Supplies Sold to Locals	35.38
Surety Bonds for Local Officers	177.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$42,676.09

Expenses

Office and Administrative Expenses	4,607.33
Salaries:	
Office	\$2,200.00
Executive	3,482.50
Organizational	6,525.00
	12,207.50
Per Capita Dues for affiliation with A. F. of L.	2,900.00
Organization Expenses	15,852.12
Educational Fund	28.65
Defense Fund (Retainer fees and court cases)	516.00
Convention Expenses	3,709.82
Publication Cost of Farm Labor News	1,800.00
Expenditures for Farm Labor Strike	1,012.81
Taxes (Social Security & Income Tax on Salaries of Officers & Organizers)	1,143.42
Miscellaneous Bills	170.26
	\$43,942.91
EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER INCOME	(\$1,271.82)

convention of the National Farm Labor Union in the state of California during the last part of 1948 or early in 1949.

Resolution No. 15

All Members To Aid Strikers

Calling on all Union members to make a contribution of not less than \$1 each to aid the Di Giorgio strikers in Kern County, California.

Resolution No. 16

Appreciation To A. F. Of L. And NSF

Expressing appreciation of the National Farm Labor Union members to the American Federation of Labor and affiliated organizations for aid extended in building this organization during the past year, and for the support given members on strike in California. Further, expressing appreciation to the National Sharecroppers Fund for continued financial support.

Resolution No. 17

Appreciation For Services To Convention

Expressing appreciation to the Little Rock Labor Temple Association for use of the convention hall; to the Southern office of the American Federation of Labor for the service rendered by Mr. Maynard Baird; and to the National Labor Service, Inc., for the services of Mr. Paul Jacobs.

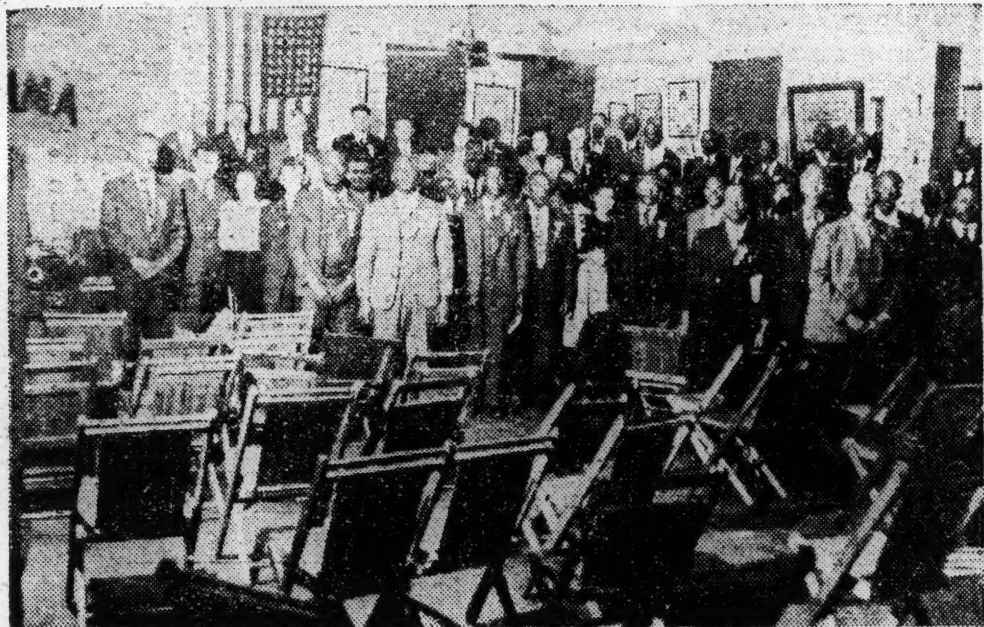
Convention Pictures

National Executive Board 1948



The new officers and Board members for 1948 are, reading left to right, front row, George F. Webber, El Paso, Texas; Dorothy Dowe, Secretary-Treasurer; H. L. Mitchell, President; F. R. Betton, Vice President; Hayes McCrary, Reform, Ala. Back row: Arthur Churchill, Lillbourn, Mo.; A. E. Cox, Cruger, Miss.; L. S. Warnock, Auburndale, Fla.; B. S. Beck, Gobler, Mo.; and George Stith, Forrest City, Ark. H. E. "Hank" Hasiwar of Bakersfield, Calif., and Carrie Dilworth of Gould, Ark., were not in the picture. J. F. Hynds and J. E. Clayton, honorary life members of the Board were unable to attend the convention and are not in the picture.

Delegates At Convention



A group of the delegates posed for this picture at the end of one of the sessions. Many of the delegates in attendance were not in the picture.

Florida Delegates Pass The Oranges



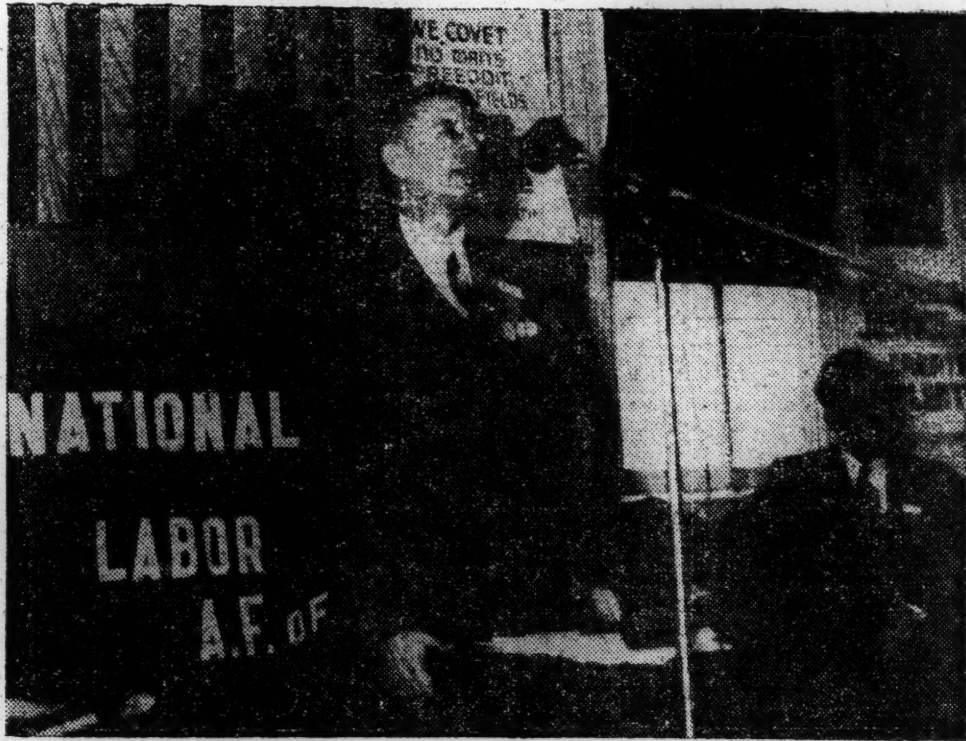
Delegates C. M. Kiddy, E. H. Fraiser, L. S. Warnock, E. D. Shines and Hubert Cummings represented Citrus Workers Local 201 of central Florida and presented the delegates attending the convention with bags of oranges. All fruit was picked by Union members.

California Delegates Report



Thomas Wilson and Hattie Shadowens from Kern County Local 218; Sherman Tucker from Tulare County Local 219; and W. H. Hodges from Local 218. These delegates made a full report to the convention on the Di Giorgio strike.

A Report From Texas



George F. Webber, Executive Board member from El Paso, made a stirring report on conditions of farm laborers in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. He condemned the new agreement for importing Mexican nationals into the U. S. A.

Visitor Addresses Convention



Bernard Hiatt, regional director for the Upholsterers International Union was among the speakers addressing the convention during its session.

Congress Told Farm Program To Protect Workers

Congress has been told that protection must be given to farm workers under any new agricultural program that may hereafter be adopted.

In a statement to a U. S. Senate committee meeting in Memphis on December 8th, H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, urged that plans be worked out for the orderly transfer of labor displaced by machinery to other jobs.

Meanwhile, C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the California Federation of Labor, also told a congressional committee studying the long range agricultural program that farm workers must be considered. He urged adequate housing, health and sanitation services for farm workers.

Haggerty urged reconsideration by Congress of the farm labor housing program, and charged that R. E. Short, President of the Farm Bureau in Arkansas, was largely responsible for the enactment of the Bramlett Act which permitted the Secretary of Agriculture to lease farm labor camps to private associations of growers.

Mr. Haggerty stated that organized labor was concerned that there be no segregated labor reserve for agriculture. He cited as the most perfect example of a segregated labor reservoir where the opportunity for advancement was forbidden, in plantation slavery. He urged that all labor recruitment and placement be under the direction of the U. S. Employment Service and strongly opposed the Farm Bureau proposal to create 48 varieties of a farm labor program administered in 3000 counties as a plan for creation of a segregated labor pool.

Stith Now Full Time Organizer

George Stith, one of the most promising young men in the National Farm Labor Union, became a full time National Representative on December 15th. Brother Stith has been a member of the Union for the past 12 years. He was secretary-treasurer of the Howell Local No. 1 for several years. He was secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Central District Council and has served several terms as a member of the National Executive Board. "George" as he is known by hundreds of Union members in his native Arkansas, is 29 years old and has been a farm worker all of his life. He has made sharecrops and knows what it is to end up a year's work with nothing to show for it. He is married but has no children. At the present time his family is living at Gould, Ark., but they expect to move near Memphis soon. He will work out of the Memphis office in the mid-South area.

Fruit Pickers

(Continued From Page One)

gaged in processing the fruit raised

Farm Labor News

The Farm Labor News is published monthly by the National Farm Labor Union.

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QUARANTINE HIM



Courtesy Institute for American Democracy, Inc.

AFL President Joins NFLU Every Member An Organizer

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, is now a member of the National Farm Labor Union Local 204.

The A. F. of L. President was a coal miner and has been a member of the United Mine Workers of America for many years. Recently, the United Mine Workers dis-affiliated from the A. F. of L. When the miner pulled out, H. L. Mitchell wrote to Mr. Green and extended to him an invitation to join the National Farm Labor Union Local 204. The President of the American Federation of Labor replied, "I respond wholeheartedly to this invitation. I will be pleased to accept membership in your National Farm Labor Union." President Green's membership dues are paid in full for the year 1948.

In his letter to the A. F. of L. President, H. L. Mitchell advised him that since coal miners are closely related to farm workers and normally engage in agricultural pursuits when they are not working in the mines, he was therefore eligible for active membership in the National Farm Labor Union.

The constitution of the American Federation of Labor requires that all officers shall be members in good standing in a union affiliated with the A. F. of L. From 1936 to 1944 when the United Mine Workers of America were out of the A. F. of L., President Green's membership was in the Musicians Union. It is assumed that the A. F. of L. President will keep his membership in the National Farm Labor Union until the miners again re-enter the house of labor.

in the corporation's groves. A. F. of L. organizers see this as an attempt to stall union organization by the Di Giorgio Corporation workers.

Indian River Fruit

Pickers Organize

A new Local composed of fruit pickers and grove workers has been organized at Vero Beach, Florida, on the Atlantic coast. The officers of the new Local are: Hardy L. Reagan, President; Frank Jones, Vice President; and Burel Kinston, Secretary-Treasurer. The Local was organized by Frank E'Dalgo and Dr. Garland. A. F. of L. organizers attached to the southern office.

Every member in good standing in the National Farm Labor Union, A. F. of L., is hereby appointed a Union organizer for the year 1948. Your Union membership book is an organizer's credential.

If you are a member of this Union you are authorized and empowered to go out and sign up new members in the National Farm Labor Union, A. F. of L.

Go see your neighbors. Tell them about the Union. Show them how they can protect their legal rights by joining the Union. Tell them about the new death benefit funds for members of the Union. Have each person sign an application for membership in your chapter or local union. Have every person you get to sign an application for membership to go with you to the next Union meeting. Tell your new members to be ready to take the Union oath and pay his initiation fee and membership dues to the local or chapter secretary. He can pay one month, three months or a year in advance.

Remember, the only way you may reap the full benefits of the Union is by building it big and strong. For 1948 the slogan is—EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER.

What Do You Want In Your Paper?

A newspaper published by an A. F. of L. union has just made a study of what members of unions like best in their papers. The survey showed that union members liked "local news" best of all.

We just wonder if this is true of the members of the National Farm Labor Union. We have tried for two years to get the local unions to send in news for their paper. Do we get any?—The answer is NO!

If the President of the United States dropped in on one of our local meetings, the Farm Labor News would not get a report about his visit. We would learn about it weeks later via the "grapevine."

If you want something printed in your paper about what happens in your local or community, send it in. Give the names of people, the date it happened and we will print it. Remember—we aren't mind readers.

Ickes Strikes Home; Smokes Out Big Farm Operators

Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of Interior during all four terms when the late Franklin D. Roosevelt was President of the United States, has performed a real service to the California farm workers.

The "Old Curmudgeon," as Mr. Ickes is sometimes called, wrote a column for a large number of newspapers on the Di Giorgio strike in Kern County, California. He told the truth about the strike and the bad conditions of farm workers in Kern County. The result has been that the Associated Farmers are now up in arms.

A committee of big shot farmers, calling themselves representatives of "an aroused community" made an investigation of the Di Giorgio Farms and reported that all was well. According to the committee, nobody but 1,100 employess on the 22,000 acre ranch are even on strike. They also reported that a group of strangers are on a picket line 19½ miles about the place. Hank Hasiwar, an "outside agitator" is responsible for the unpleasant situation facing their old friend, Joe Di Giorgio. A few other mistakes such as one about H. L. Mitchell being associated with a known communist, Don Henderson, in founding the Southern Tenant Farmers Union was also made by the representatives of an "aroused community." The truth was that Don Henderson tried to break up the STFU after it had been going on for several years and Mitchell just helped lick Mr. Henderson and his cohorts.

The net result of the attack on Harold Ickes and the Di Giorgio strikers was to get the news of the strike all over the front pages of the reactionary Los Angeles Times and the Bakersfield Californian. Both newspapers had tried to ignore the strike since it was begun. As Mr. Ickes wrote President Mitchell, "Some of the papers have certainly been stirred up by the column I wrote on the strike of the Di Giorgio employees. The virulence of these attacks would have persuaded me, in the absence of other evidence, that I had struck home."

National Convention

(Continued From Page One)

quired to pay under the revenue laws of the United States. A resolution was likewise adopted calling upon Congress to enact legislation giving American farm workers the same protection now accorded foreign nationals who are being brought in under agreements made by the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service for 1948.

Officers Elected For 1948

H. L. Mitchell was re-elected President. F. R. Betton, Vice President and Dorothy Dowe, Secretary-Treasurer, were also re-elected to their posts. The new National Executive Board is as follows:

B. S. Beck	Arthur Churchill
George Webber	Carris Dillworth
George Stith	A. E. Cox
H. E. Hasiwar	Hayes McCrary
L. S. Warnock	J. F. Hynds
	J. E. Clayton

Henry Ellis Dies

Henry Ellis, 71 years of age, of Cotton Plant, Ark., died on December 8th. He was a member of Jones Hill Local 38 for the past ten years. He leaves a wife, seven children and a large number of grandchildren and many friends to mourn his passing.